

Application No. 10/669,580
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 12 on the grounds that the term "no scales" lacks antecedent basis, and the Examiner indicates on page 3 of the Office Action that the term "no scales" has been interpreted to mean "no logarithmic scales."

Thus, the Examiner has interpreted claims 1 and 12 to include within their scope that when the x-axis is not selected to be a logarithmic axis, ordinary scales are plotted for the x-axis, and that when the y-axis is not selected to be a logarithmic axis, ordinary scales are plotted for the y-axis.

Accordingly, in order to more clearly recite the features of the present invention, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to clarify that any axis that is not set to be logarithmic is set to be a linear axis, and to clarify that no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the x-coordinate range when the x-axis is set to be linear and the y-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic y-axis, and no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the y-coordinate range when the y-axis is set to be linear and the x-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic x-axis.

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That is, amended independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that when one axis is selected to be logarithmic, but the other is not, no scales of any kind (logarithmic or ordinary) are plotted for the axis that is not selected to be logarithmic. See, for example, Fig. 6C, which shows a logarithmic y-axis and an ordinary x-axis on which no scales of any kind are plotted.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1 and 12 be approved and entered, and that the rejection under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of combinations of "OrCAD Pspice Quick Reference" OrCAD™, Inc. ("OrCAD"), "How to Get Started with Pspice? (for beginners)" by Jan Van der Spiegel ("Spiegel"), "Lab 1 Help," identified by the Examiner as "PSpice lab from school of Electrical Engineering, University of Toronto, from Internet Archive" ("Lab 1 Help"), "Brief Spice Tutorial" for Fall 2002 from the University of Utah ("Brief Spice Tutorial") and Official Notice. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As pointed out above, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 7 and claim 12, plotting of

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logarithmic scales for the x-coordinate range is controlled such that the determined number of logarithmic scales for the x-coordinate range are plotted when the x-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic x-axis, and such that no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the x-coordinate range when the x-axis is set to be linear and the y-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic y-axis; and plotting of logarithmic scales for the y-coordinate range is controlled such that the determined number of logarithmic scales for the y-coordinate range are plotted when the y-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic y-axis, and such that no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the y-coordinate range when the y-axis is set to be linear and the x-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic x-axis.

According to claims 1 and 12, moreover, the graph plotting control unit plots on the display screen a logarithmic graph corresponding to the plotted logarithmic scales corresponding to the selected at least one of the x- and y-axes when the at least one of the x- and y-axes is selected, and plots on the display screen an ordinary graph corresponding to the x- and y-axes when neither of the x- and y-axes is selected to be set as the corresponding logarithmic x- and y-axes.

Thus, according to the present invention a plotted graph is one of: (1) a graph in which one axis is logarithmic such that scales are plotted for the logarithmic axis and no scales of any

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kind are plotted for the other axis; (ii) a graph in which both axes are logarithmic and consequently logarithmic scales are plotted for both axes; and (iii) an ordinary graph in which both the x- and y-axes may be plotted with ordinary scales.

With the technique of the present invention, it is possible to easily determine whether a graph is logarithmic and which axes are set as logarithmic axes, simply by checking whether logarithmic scales are plotted for the respective axes of the graph.

In particular, since according to the claimed present invention scales are only plotted for the logarithmic axis when one axis is logarithmic and the other is not, it is immediately apparent that the graph includes one logarithmic axis and one axis that is not logarithmic. For example, with the technique of the claimed present invention, it is apparent at a glance that in the graph in Fig. 6C the y-axis is logarithmic while the x-axis is not.

Page 9 of Spiegel shows a graph in which the x-axis is logarithmic and in which the y-axis not logarithmic. (See the toolbar in the figure, which shows that the button to make the x-axis logarithmic has been depressed, but the corresponding button for the y-axis is not.) Even though only one of the axes is logarithmic on page 9 of Spiegel is logarithmic, however, scales

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are plotted for both axes. It is therefore necessary to refer to the toolbar to determine whether each axis is logarithmic.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Spiegel clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 12 whereby no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the x-coordinate range when the x-axis is set to be linear and the y-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic y-axis, and whereby no visible scales of any kind are plotted for the y-coordinate range when the y-axis is set to be linear and the x-axis is selected to be set as the logarithmic x-axis.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that the other prior art references of record also fail to disclose, teach or suggests these features of the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 7 and 12, as well as claims 8-11 depending from claim 7, clearly patentably distinguishes over all of the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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